

## **Lava Fire District-Mitigation Plan**

The Lava Fire District is located in Southeast Bannock County and predominately agricultural and has a large number of summer homes. Lava is known for its hot pools and attracts a large number of tourists each year. The Fire District covers approximately 64 square miles and the Department protects 398 homes with a value of \$23,756,000.00.

The Lava Fire District provides protection for a large number of homes in the interface area. There are several large developments in the District in which homes continue to be built in the interface. Heavy fuels are present in most of these areas.

The Lava Fire Department is a volunteer department currently with 16 members including the Fire Chief. The Department responds to approximately 60 calls for service each year.

The Department operates with 1 medium and 1 light brush truck as well as a 4,000 gallon tender. In addition, the Department operates structural firefighting trucks. There has been significant discussion about acquiring an additional light truck to place in the Lava Ranch area for quick response capability. Homeowners have expressed a desire to participate in such a project.

The Department has been active with wildland fire training. All members have completed the standards of survival training and basic wildland fire school. Some members have completed intermediate fire behavior and wildland operations and the goal is to have all members complete these courses.

The Department has been very active with fire prevention programs. Annual meetings with homeowner groups and home visits are ongoing. The Department is conducting the **Red Zone** assessment and they expect to be finished this year. The Department distributes information regarding fire prevention and fuels reduction. The BLM is currently working on a fuels reduction project in the Smith Canyon area on a 40 acre parcel.

The Fire Chief indicated the need for fuels reduction projects in most of the subdivisions. There has been some discussion with the Forest Service and BLM regarding disposal of the products. The Federal agencies indicated they would be willing to work with the Department on this issue.

The Lava Fire District has a history of wildfire. The Department has responded to several fires each year some being very significant.

The Fire Chief indicated a home in section 33 that is not included in the District. They have approached the individuals and are encouraging the residents to become members.

**Water resources** currently used by the Department include City water system, portneuf river and a large pond in the Smith Canyon area. Some irrigation water is available early in the season.

### **Fire Mitigation Goals**

• Funding for fire station addition	\$200,000.00
• 2 new light trucks	100,000.00
• 1 new heavy truck	100,000.00
• Small equipment (saws, hand tools)	5,000.00
• Personal Protective Equipment (including shelters)	5,000.00
• Wildland Training	2,000.00
• Home Evaluations	5,000.00
• Evacuation Planning	
• County Mutual Aid Agreement	
• County wildland fire code	
• Portable water supply	

### **Fire Mitigation Actions**

- Fire station additions and equipment needs-work with Federal Agencies to identify funding sources. Participate in training opportunities for grant writing and work with County, State and Federal agencies to acquire needed funding.
- Wildland fire training-continue to work with the BLM to train volunteers. Courses currently available through the Eastern Idaho technical College.
- Evacuation Planning-work to promote a notification program using the NOAA weather radios.
- Fuels reduction projects-continue to work with homeowner associations in identifying and promoting projects. Work with BLM and Forest Service on fuels issues.
- Wildland Fire Code-participate with a Countywide group to draft and adopt a code.
- Mutual Aid Agreement-participate with other Fire Districts in the County to adopt a mutual aid agreement.
- Portable Water Supply-work with other Fire Districts to acquire and share water tenders.

## **Lava Fire Department**

### **Moose Hollow**

**HIGH**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	5
Population	5
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuels reduction project. Develop water supply. Adopt wildland interface fire code.*

### **Lava Ranch/Smith Canyon**

**HIGH**

Past Occurrence	2
Fuel Conditions	5
Population	5
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuels reduction project. Develop water supply. Adopt wildland interface fire code.*

### **Spring Creek**

**HIGH**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	5
Population	5
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuels reduction project. Develop water supply. Adopt wildland interface fire code.*

### **Thunder Mountain**

**HIGH**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	5
Population	5
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuels reduction project. Develop water supply. Adopt wildland interface fire code.*

### **Pine Haven**

**HIGH**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	5
Population	5
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuels reduction project. Develop water supply. Adopt wildland interface fire code.*

**Indian Falls****MODERATE**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	2
Population	5
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Develop water supply. Adopt wildland interface fire code.  
Enforce current building codes.*

**Lava Hills****MODERATE**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	2
Population	5
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Develop water supply. Adopt wildland interface fire code.  
Enforce current building codes.*

**Juniper Ranchettes****LOW**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	2
Population	4
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Develop water supply. Adopt wildland interface fire code.  
Enforce current building codes.*

**Lava West****LOW**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	1
Population	3
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Develop water supply.*

**Thunder Canyon****LOW**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	1
Population	4
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Develop water supply.*

**Creekside Circle****MODERATE**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	2
Population	5
Suppression	2

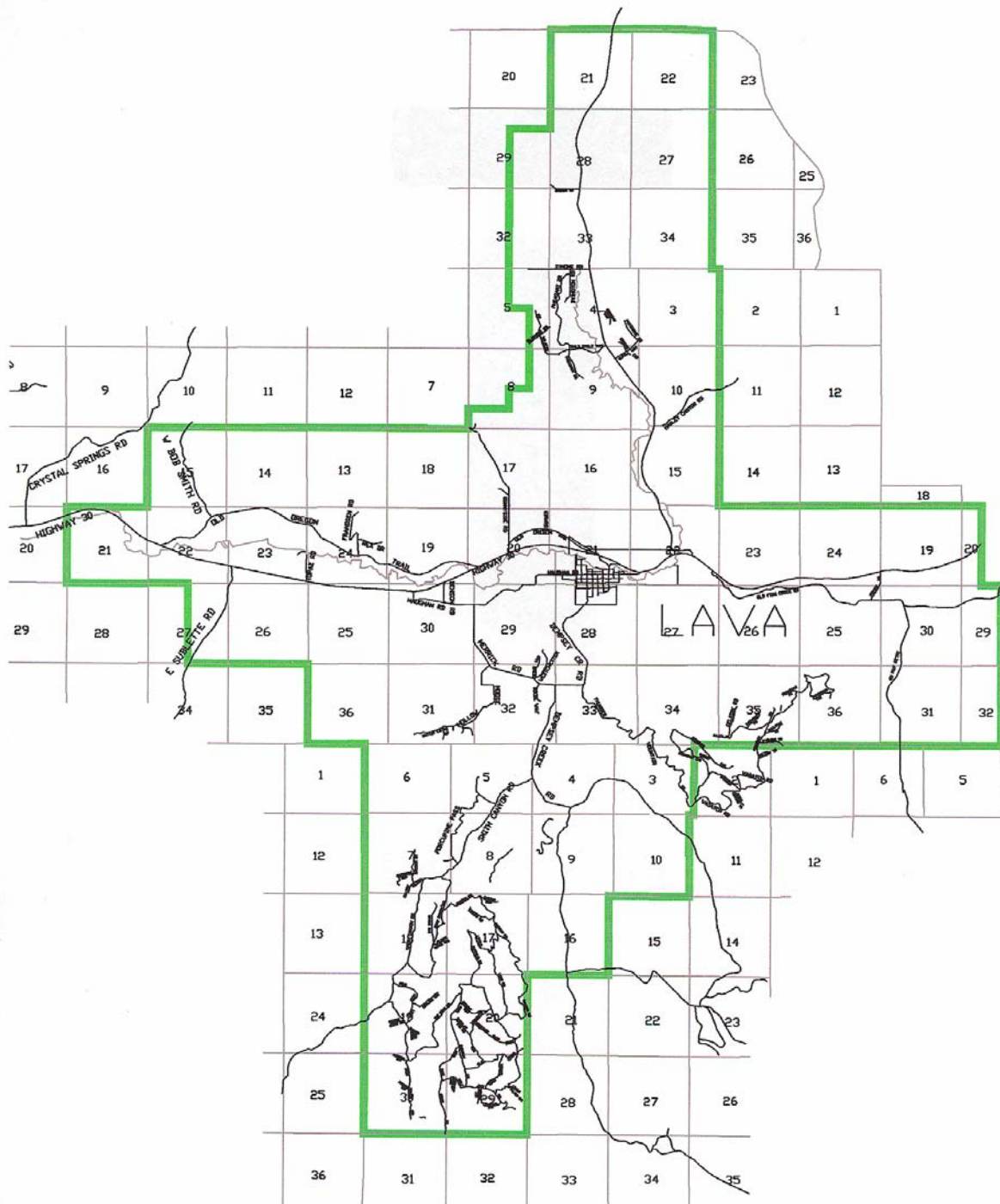
*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Develop water supply.*

**Deer Creek Estates****MODERATE**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	5
Population	2
Suppression	2

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuel reduction project. Develop water supply.*

# LAVA FIRE DISTRICT



**Assessment Overview Report**  
**Lava Fire District**  
**Three Rivers Resource, Conservation and Development Area**  
**June 2003**

**Profile of the District:**

The Lava Fire District is a combined municipal and fire protection district. The protection area includes a moderately growing area of Southeastern Idaho including structural protection, wildland fires and HazMat support. Lava Hot Springs is located at the Base of Fish Creek Summit that boasts a world-class natural hot springs operated by the State of Idaho and Lava Hot Springs Foundation. The area is primarily recreational with rolling hills and mountains with the Portneuf River running through the area.

**Organizational Structure**

The District reports to the City and Fire District Commission, respectively. There is one chief, one assistant chief, a training officer and 16 firefighters. All personnel are volunteers. The Disaster Services Coordinator represents the District.

**Facilities:**

The District has one station with four bays. It is in need of adding a training area to the existing station. At present, the District is required to move trucks around to make room for training. An office for record keeping and report writing is also needed.

**Response Area:**

The fire protection area includes agriculture, rangelands, forest, wildland urban interface, residential and business. The response area includes 250 square.

**Budget and Funding:**

Actual budget figures are not available. However approximately 68% of the budget is funded through tax dollars and the remainder is funded through special fees.

**Grants:**

The Fire District has received grant funds from the State IDS, the BLM, Forest Service and the National Fire Plan. The District is familiar with the National Fire Plan and they do intend to continue to pursue grant opportunities.

### **Records Management:**

A comprehensive, computerized records management system is in place. The District has been using the Fire Programs systems for approximately one year and it tracks personnel, incident reports, training, apparatus and equipment.

### **Firefighting Program:**

The Lava Fire District has 18 personnel within the firefighting program that are all volunteers. Fire response includes protection for structural protection and wildland fire suppression. The District reports it responds to 24 fire calls a year. The area is at high risk for wildland urban interface fires and for terrorist attacks. Eighteen of the firefighters are trained in wildland suppression. The District does have some adequate and reliable water sources including water mains, hydrants, bodies of water and tender operations. The 10-minute place into action requirement is a capability of the District with scene size-up, attack lines and water supply.

#### **Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

<b>Existing Resources/Assets</b>	<b>Needs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1 Station, 4 Bays</li><li>● Volunteer Personnel</li><li>● 2,750 Structural/180 Wildland Total GPM Capacity</li><li>● Computerized Record Keeping System in Progress</li><li>● Fire Response: Structural &amp; Wildlands</li><li>● 3 Structural2 Wildland Vehicles</li><li>● Investigating a Grid Access Address System</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Training Space Addition</li><li>● Office and Record Keeping Area</li><li>● Computer Use and Software Training</li><li>● Improved Enforcement of Current Codes</li><li>● Improved Communication with Developers</li><li>● Increased Water Supply – Add 1-2 Tenders</li><li>● Ease in Accessibility and Applying for Grants</li><li>● NFPA Manuals on Maintenance &amp; Testing</li><li>● Add 1 Light and 1 Heavy Wildland Truck</li><li>● Hand-held Radios</li></ul>

### **Hazardous Materials Program:**

The Fire District does not have a HazMat response team.

### **EMS Program:**

The District does not support an EMS system at this time.



## Training and Certification:

The District's training program includes structural protection (essentials), wildland fire suppression (essentials), and HazMat awareness. The District has been acquiring study materials to implement NFPA courses and it does utilize the IFSTA Training Program.

### Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Structural Protection</li><li>• Wildland Fire Suppression</li><li>• HazMat Awareness</li><li>• IFSTA Training Program</li><li>• Standard Operating Procedures</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Training Space Build</li><li>• Complete Set of IFSTA Training Materials</li></ul>

## Communications:

Communication is dispatched through the Bannock County 911 dispatch center. Radio communication capacity is sufficient. Some vehicles are equipped with radios and the District does not have a sufficient number of hand-held radios.

### Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Responds to Remote Alarm Calls</li><li>• Portable Radios</li><li>• Radios in Some Vehicles</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talk-a-round Channel</li><li>• Communication Frequencies with the BLM &amp; Forest Service</li><li>• Hand-held Radios</li></ul>

## Prevention and Inspection:

The District does not have Fire Code regulation enforcement capacity. Fire cause and origin investigations are conducted. If there is a cause or origin question, the State Fire Marshal's Office is called in for assistance with investigation.

### Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire Cause &amp; Origin Investigations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Locally Trained Personnel</li><li>• Area Inspector from the State Marshal's Office</li></ul>

## **Public Education:**

The District does conduct public education programs for wildland fires, structural fires and home safety. It also regularly participates in public outreach with schools, fire station activities and scouting events.

### **Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

<b>Existing Resources/Assets</b>	<b>Needs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Education Programs</li><li>• Outreach Education</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepackaged Programs</li></ul>